

# Yard Goats Job Fair Set for Saturday, February 22

The Hartford Yard Goats will be holding its annual job fair at Dunkin' Donuts Park, 1214 Main Street, Hartford, on Saturday, February 22 from 10:00 am until 1:00 pm. The Yard Goats are seeking applicants to fill a wide range of game day positions and looking for

upbeat, fan-friendly individuals to help make the fourth season in Hartford another huge success. Dunkin' Donuts Park attracted over one-million fans over its first three seasons in Hartford. Last season, the Yard Goats drew a franchise record 414,946 fans, including 51

sellouts, and led the entire Eastern League in total attendance for the second straight year.

Personnel from both the Yard Goats and their food and beverage provider, Professional Sports Catering, will be on hand to speak with and receive applications from all

job-seekers. Combined, the two organizations will staff an average of 300 positions each year that include: ushers, ticket takers, box office personnel, merchandising, house-keeping, grounds crew, concessions, kitchen personnel, and catering.

# The Hartford News

February 6 – 12, 2020



## NEWS BRIEFS

### Know Thy Neighbor Frog Hollow Meets February 10

Know Thy Neighbor Frog Hollow will meet Monday, February 10, at 6:00pm at Emanuel Lutheran Church, 311 Capitol Avenue. Know Thy Neighbor brings together neighborhood residents, police officers, and fire fighters from Frog Hollow and vicinity to talk about community concerns and work together to take action. For more info: ktnfroghollow@gmail.com or 860-201-6510. Refreshments will be available at 5:45pm. Park in the lot off of Hungerford Street and enter the building from the parking lot through the red door on the right.

### MARG Meets Feb. 13

The Maple Avenue Revitalization Group (MARG) will hold its monthly meeting at 6 pm on Thursday, February 13, in the lower level of St. Augustine Church, 10 Campfield Avenue, Hartford. State Representative Joseph Verengia, chair of the legislature's Public Safety & Security Committee, will discuss juvenile crime. There will also be a presentation by the Hartford Preservation Alliance and a discussion of public safety in the neighborhood. The meeting is free and open to the public. For more information, call MARG President Hyacinth Yennie at 860-296-5543.

### Discussion on Hartford Barber Shops Feb. 13

A discussion of "Barbershops in Hartford: History and Evolution" will be held on Thursday, February 13, from 5:30 -7:30 pm in the Hartford History Center of Hartford Public Library, 500 Main Street, Hartford. The History Center is currently displaying a collection of barber shop photos, materials, and memorabilia collected by longtime Hartford community member Willie Mann.

### Free Lunchtime Music Series Starts Downtown Feb. 14

"The Winter Blues," a series of free lunchtime shows, will start next Friday, February 14, at 12 noon. The concerts will continue every Friday through March 2 inside the City Place 1 lobby, 185 Asylum Street, Downtown Hartford.

### Yard Goats National Anthem Auditions

The Hartford Yard Goats Baseball Club, the Double-A Eastern League

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### Hartford and Manchester Combine for Art Show

Hartford Poet Laureate Frederick-Douglass Knowles, II, reads one of his works at the opening reception for "PERSPECTIVES: We Are All Different...We Are All One," an exhibit showcasing over 60 local artists at Hartford Public Access Television (HPATV) on Sergeant Street in Hartford. The exhibit was first shown at the Galleries@WorkSpace in Manchester. Hartford Mayor Luke Bronin and Manchester Mayor Jay Moran both spoke at the event, as did Manchester Poet Laureate Ryan Parker, who is shown at left listening to Knowles. The exhibit will be on display at HPATV through the end of March. (Hart photo)

## Hartford...Once Upon a Time



This wonderful photograph of the old New Park Avenue School was sent to us by lifelong Hartford resident Bill Gervais. It was taken by Richard Storm DeLamater (1833-1915), a talented Hartford photographer who was very active in the late 19th century. New Park Avenue School opened in 1872 with eight classrooms for approximately 300 students. To accommodate Parkville's growing population, a new wing was added to the north of the original building in 1885, which was probably when this photo was taken. The original school is to the left with the peaked roof and cupola, the addition is to its right. An outhouse with separate entrances for boys and girls can be seen behind the school. A second wing was added to the south of the original school later. At far left in the photo is the original Grace Episcopal Church, which was founded in 1863 as a mission church of Trinity Episcopal Church on Sigourney Street. It became a separate parish in 1912. The original church building was completed in 1868, but today it is hidden behind the brick facade and bell tower which were added to the church in 1967. New Park Avenue School served the neighborhood for over a century but was torn down in 1977, following the opening of Parkville Community School, just up the street at the corner of Park Street and New Park Avenue. Parkville Community School, which is decorated with flags from around the world to reflect Parkville's ethnic diversity, also contains the Parkville Senior Center and the Dwight Branch of Hartford Public Library. (Photo courtesy of Bill Gervais)

## TALKING WITH THODY

*Interim Chief of Police answers questions and makes his case for the appointment*

BY ANNE GOSHDIGIAN

A crowd of about 90 people showed up at the Hartford Public Library last week for Mayor Luke Bronin's monthly Town Hall meeting. In contrast to the usually low number of attendees at these events, they were there to hear from Interim Hartford Chief of Police, Jason Thody, Bronin's nominee for appointment to Chief. A three-part format opened with the mayor explaining his reasons for the nomination. "My plan when Chief (David) Rosado resigned was to conduct a national search. But at this point, I felt we needed continuity and stability for the city. National searches have their downsides as well as upsides, and if we moved ahead with the national search, it could have resulted in bringing in the fourth HPD leader in two years." He went on to add that if an outside hire came on board, it would take six months to bring a new Chief up to speed, who would at that point still be feeling their way during the summer months—a challenging time for HPD. Bronin then fielded some comments from the audience. The topics included why a person of color was not nominated; the need for more community policing; a suggestion that the Chief attend a meeting at every city NRZ before appointment; the need to train HPD officers to recognize mental health issues; police accountability, and the use of deadly force.

An administration-selected panel of 12 city "stakeholders" then took seats on the stage, and each was allowed to ask Thody one question; the moderator was the Reverend Steve Camp of Faith Congregational Church. Panelists included the HPD Union president, several city commission members, an NRZ head, members of Mothers United Against Violence, and representatives from two city non-profits. Thody was asked "How is your internal morale at HPD?" He replied with candor that the Chief is probably the last person to be able to speak on how morale is, but added "They seem to be happy to see me when they see me." Thody, who retired (with his pension) from HPD in 2018, if appointed Chief would continue to collect his pension but would receive only 50% of the Chief's salary as a result, which he said would constitute a \$40,000 pay cut; he doesn't see that as a problem. He was asked to return to HPD that same year to be Assistant Chief and help Rosado through the transition, and has now been 24 years in the department, rising through the ranks in several official capacities. Before the event reached the third part—the reading of some written questions to Thody from the audience—attendance in the room had shrunk by two-thirds.

This past Tuesday, the City Council held a meeting, a hearing by the Committee of the Whole, where council members questioned

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# Time to Make a Sausage

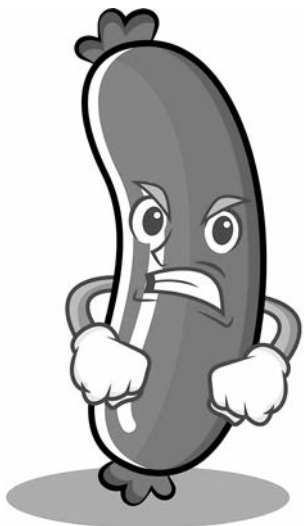
COMMENTARY BY TOM SWARR

With the opening of the 2020 legislative session, the warning of Otto von Bismarck comes to mind; “To retain respect for laws and sausage, one must never watch them in the making.” The reader is duly cautioned, and I will ignore the warning.

The controversy over tolls has dominated political reporting and need not be repeated here. Recent spills of fire-fighting foams has focused attention on forever chemicals, such as PFAS, and will be a hot topic this session. Chemical safety is too important—and complicated—to squeeze into this article and will be covered in a future article.

We can expect the usual debate about economic development versus environmental protection. Our reliance on property taxes drives towns to develop their open spaces in order to grow the grand list. To protect our green spaces, and to preserve the rural nature of many towns, policies to reduce barriers to redevelopment of brownfield sites are critical. Last year, the legislature passed PA 19-75, which was intended to do just that. The new law also created a working group to examine current law and recommend potential changes. The working group must report its findings and recommendations to the Commerce and

Environment committees by February 1, 2020. It is important to strike a fair balance between the desire to facilitate redevelopment and to protect public health from effects of ensure adequate remediation to protect public health.



A bill introduced but not enacted in the last session (2019 SB 927) would have expanded the Connecticut Green Bank’s duties to include developing programs to finance environmental infrastructure. Infrastructure investments encourage local job creation and yield both environmental and economic benefits. Sadly, they are not aligned with our preference for kicking the can down the road.

Another important topic no one really wants to talk about is safe disposal of our waste. The controversial project to replace the trash plant in Hartford’s South Meadows will likely require public funding to proceed. It is assumed no funding will be offered. While some are already celebrating the failure of the project, there has been little discussion of a Plan B. Doing nothing is not an option. But engaging in a messy discussion about practical methods for safe waste disposal attracts much less interest than efforts to ban plastic straws.

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# Be True to Your School?

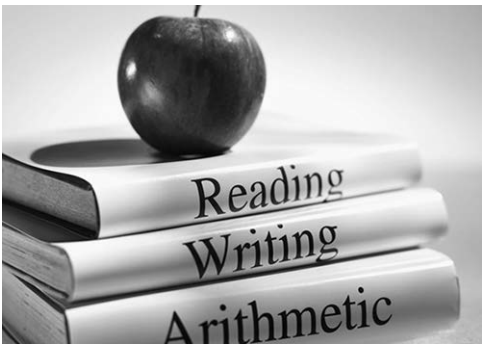
Hartford students face an identity crisis

COMMENTARY BY ANNE GOSHDIGIAN

Putting aside the role the originally well-intentioned Sheff vs. O’Neill decision played in what has ultimately become a dysfunctional and failing Hartford public school system, a hard look at what’s wrong is in order. The fact is that Hartford students who aren’t lucky enough to win the magnet school lottery are not receiving sufficient preparation for higher education, nor for the trades that will boost their earning capacity. A system that receives tens of millions in federal, state, and city dollars needs to be held accountable for the “product” they put out on the market—the world beyond high school.

Who bears the blame for low test scores, a lack of discipline and accountability, a truncated curriculum, below grade-level skills in reading, writing, and mathematics, boredom, apathy, absenteeism, and truancy? Kids aren’t hard-wired for failure. Read that again. Most start pre-school and elementary school as eager little sponges, ready to absorb new skills—both academic and social. They usually bond with their

teachers, make friends, and proudly become invested in their school’s “identity”. They learn about respecting the school and classroom rules. All this lays the groundwork for the years of public school education ahead. But what we’re seeing now are children as young as kindergarten age



getting into severe verbal and even physical altercations with fellow students, and disrespecting adult authority figures, and it accelerates through middle school and on into high school. Kids sometimes bring weapons to school. Fights happen both inside and outside the building. Drug use/dealing is open. For many students, school becomes a battleground to be navigated warily.

The identity bond disappears. This is exacerbated by the Hartford Public Schools’ reluctance to require personal accountability and to enforce disciplinary action when it’s necessary. Classroom teachers who try to maintain order and safety for the sake of those kids who actually want to learn are frequently not supported by the school administrators. Students who miss as much as 50% of a particular class, fail exams, and don’t turn in required homework and papers still receive a final grade of D-minus. Social promotion is the rule because that ups the graduation rate, which results in a better rating and more funding. Graduates are urged to enroll in college (also helping the rating/funding), but are they tracked beyond enrollment to see how many go on to earn a Bachelor’s or even Associate’s degree?

Are the kids to blame? No. Some say home training is lacking and parents are the problem. There’s certainly some truth in

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# Politically Speaking

A Fresh Look at Issues Facing our Region & State

BY MIKE MCGARRY

## Where Are They Now?



Something a little different this week, and we hope you’ll indulge us in a little parental pride. So join us in a trip down memory lane to 1982 and hang a left onto Ashley Street, where you’ll meet Ginny Saur and Mike “Mick” McGarry (above), both age 11. Video games were in their infancy back then, so most kids spent their time the old-fashioned way, letting their imaginations run wild. These two constructed a giant spider web out of yellow yarn in our backyard, an achievement that landed them on page 2 of the old Asylum Hill Ink, Decemeber 8-16, 1982 edition. Both Gimmy and Mike have moved on to bigger things. Jenny is a well-respected scientist living in Colorado and Mick is President of Hamden Town Council.

# In My Opinion

## Green Party Presidential Candidate Howie Hawkins Responds to the Democrats

BY DAVID SAMUELS

**Every State Is A Battleground: Howie Hawkins’ Response To “An Open Letter To The Green Party About 2020 Election Strategy”**

I doubt that we are going to persuade each other at this point. After all, I have been back and forth with many of the people expressing these opinions in previous elections on the “safe states” proposal. The signers want the Green Party presidential ticket to campaign only in safe states where the outcome is a forgone conclusion and support the Democratic presidential ticket in battleground states where the race will be close between the Democratic and Republican candidates.

The signers claim “Voting Green in the swing states is a feel-good activity (‘vote your hopes, not your fears’) as if fear of climate disaster, for example, shouldn’t be a motivator for political action.”

It is condescending and disrespectful to say that Greens are political dilettantes who cast votes just to feel good. We vote to advance a

program of system change. We don’t waste our votes affirming Democrats like Clinton who personified the elite consensus for the neoliberal economics and neoconservative imperialism that has given us unabated global warming, growing economic insecurity, and endless wars. We used our vote for Jill Stein and Ajamu Baraka to demand a Green New Deal, improved Medicare for All, a job guarantee, student debt relief, ending US military aggression, and fair elections.

The two-capitalist-party system’s stranglehold on US politics has not changed. The safe-states strategy the open letter writers advocate does not challenge that stranglehold but accepts it as a given. They argue that Trump is what is different this time around. He is a “special danger.” We have heard that many times before with Goldwater, Nixon, Reagan, and the Bushes.

## The Left Can’t Outsource Fighting The Right To The Democrats

They say Greens “refuse to recognize the special danger of Trump”

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## THE HARTFORD NEWS

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# Letter to the Editor

## A Message from State Rep. Gonzalez

Dear Neighbor,

The 2020 legislative session got underway on Wednesday, February 5th and we will be working on many issues that affect Hartford and the state.

There are resources that help constituents to keep track of bills, debates and general information about meetings, public hearings and opportunities to testify on issues.

Below are some links that can help you keep track of everything that's happening at the State Capitol. *(Editor's Note: Most links have been condensed to save space, but are still valid).*

- The non-partisan Office of Legislative Research recently published the 2020 Major Issues report, which summarizes key issues the legislature could take up during the upcoming session. You can read it here: [tinyurl.com/t2khgqw](https://tinyurl.com/t2khgqw)
- Go to the CGA website to view the General Assembly's schedule of events. [tinyurl.com/wcsqgry](https://tinyurl.com/wcsqgry)
- Follow CTN ([ct-n.com/](https://ct-n.com/)) for live coverage of committee meetings and House and Senate floor debates.
- Visit this website ([tinyurl.com/wm7cmrk](https://tinyurl.com/wm7cmrk)) to register as a bill tracking user to track any bill as it makes its way through the legislative process. Once you are logged in, you will be able to enter the bill number into the system. Whenever the bill's status changes, you will receive an email informing you of this change.
- For information on how to testify on a bill that is up for a public hearing, follow this link. <https://www.cga.ct.gov/asp/Content/YourVoice.asp>.
- OpenConnecticut: allows residents to track state government's spending in real time and is operated by the Comptroller's office. Go to: [tinyurl.com/sgxomaa](https://tinyurl.com/sgxomaa)

Please feel free to contact me at the Capitol at 1-800-842-8267 or by email at [Minnie.Gonzalez@cga.ct.gov](mailto:Minnie.Gonzalez@cga.ct.gov).

Sincerely,  
Minnie Gonzalez  
State Representative, 3rd District



### Benefit Concert for Earthquake Victims

Bomba FM Radio and CICD Puerto Rican Parade held a special fundraising concert for victims of the recent earthquakes in Puerto Rico this past Saturday, February 1, at Favela on Newfield Avenue in Hartford. Among the many performers at the event were Alex Cabrera (above) and the Choco Band (below). (Hart photos)



# Whose Job Is It to Clean Up?

## PART II

COMMENTARY BY DENISE BEST

*(Editor's Note: This article is a follow up to Donna Swarr's piece "Whose Job Is It To Clean Up," published in the January 30, 2020 edition of the Hartford News on pg. 2)*

The answer to your question Donna is of course the police should remove it for it is a "crime scene" isn't it? The question as to whose job it is to clean up comes to my mind on a regular basis here in the North End of the capital city as well. The answer simply put is some man. Recently, a subcontractor for CNG, dug a trench from the west side of my street to my property on the east side. Once they connected my home to the new gas line, they packed up their toys and left the rubble behind, dirt and rocks on the sidewalk and in the street as if it didn't matter, as if it was now my job to clean up after them! I will say that DPW addressed my complaint quickly and had them come back to sweep, but they did not do a thorough job. It was the kind of job done by a petulant boy to whom you would have to instruct to do it over yet again.

Whose job is it to pick up campaign lawn signs left littering city intersections long after the vote has been counted? Why are they left behind for months, sometimes a year or more?

Whose job is it to clean the disgustingly filthy Albany Avenue? Well, it's the DOT because RTE 44 is a state highway. A man at DOT said it's difficult because there are always cars parked there. I asked if there was any, any signage at all indicating a street cleaning day? "Ah... no, said he.



"Ah... well", said I.

Whose job is it to remove hundreds, perhaps thousands of non-functional satellite dishes littering homes across the city? Oh, I know the answer to that one. The homeowner, so homeowners beware! Even though I didn't give anyone my written permission to have a satellite dish installed on my house, a man at DISH informed me that it was my responsibility to pay someone, not them, to remove it. There's a clause in my rental agreement now, NO SATELLITE DISHES ALLOWED!

And finally, whose job is it to clean the garbage and litter left on city streets weekly from the trash and recycling bins being emptied? Ridiculously overtaxed residents of course because DPW has a lack of manpower, a lack of equipment, blah, blah, blah. No, here's what we have, a diminished work ethic, and a lack of pride in one's work, supervision, accountability, and basic home training, all factors that contribute to the idea that living in filth is acceptable, and a less than satisfactory job performance still war-

rants a paycheck.

To justify placing the blame on men, there are far more men in power setting the standard(s) and making more money, in HPD, DPW, DOT, corporations and politics than women, and although it probably happens, I have never caught a woman throwing an empty liquor bottle or fast food container out of a speeding car onto my lawn. We need a change of mindset. Let's begin by abolishing that tiresome old adage, "boys will be boys," and start raising our sons to be responsible men.

## ActUp Theater to Present Black History Month Musical Saturday

In February, Hartford's ActUp Theater will present STAND, an original social justice musical, in honor of Black History Month.

The show will be presented two times only, at 3 pm and 6 pm on Saturday, February 8, at the Black Box Theater at the newly renovated Weaver High School, 415 Granby Street, Hartford.

Both shows will be followed by a talk-back session in which the performers and audience members will discuss some of the issues raised by the play.

STAND takes place in a classroom lock-down after students witness an event and refuse to come forward. Each character is forced to confront their choices, retrace their past, and face their humanity. These stories are told and intertwined with dynamic dances, poetry, and inspirational songs that give the audience a refreshing take on a musical.

Tickets for STAND are \$25 (\$20 for seniors and students) and may be purchased at STAND2020.eventbrite.com or at the door.

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## Chilling Out for a Cause

Operation Fuel held its annual Ice House Event Friday outside the Old State House in Downtown Hartford on Friday, January 24. The purpose of the event is to demonstrate what its like to live in a home with no heat. Operation Fuel provide financial assistance to Connecticut residents who are unable to pay their utility bills. Connecticut's rates are among the highest in the nation. Brenda Watson (left), Executive Director of Operation Fuel, and Lieutenant Governor Susan Bysiewicz (right) shake hands after officially opening the Ice House. (Hart photo)

## Nominations Open for Bulkeley High Hall of Fame

The Bulkeley High School Hall Of Fame is still accepting nominations for its Hall of Fame. Nominees will be voted on in the spring. If you would like to nominate an outstanding Bulkeley graduate, send your contact information and the person you are nominating's contact information to Bob Raffalo, 2 Neptune Dr. Old Saybrook, CT 06475. The Nominating Committee is also currently trying to locate Chaquaei Baskerville (class of 2006 and Jeff Ziruk (class of 1968). If you know how they might be contacted, call Raffalo at 860-227-0438.

Nominees who are voted into the Hall of Fame will be inducted at a banquet scheduled for Sunday, October 11, at the Chowder Pot IV, 165 Brainard Road, Hartford.

The following Bulkeley student athletes have already been nominated (name followed by year of graduation; asterisk denotes posthumous nomination): Cindy A. Paluch (1976); Robert Bukowski (1963); Wilfred Collazo(1980); Bob Grabek\* (1952); Michael J Scricca (1969); Dennis Pabich (1962); Ziggy Pabich (1960); George Roslonek (1964); Edwin Garcia (1974); Stephen Falls\*

(1972); Eric Mangene (1989); Jeff Ziruk\* (1968); Jonathan Perez (2010); Frank Gionfriddo\* (1991); Alphonse P. Pajonas\* (1938); Randall K. Falls (1972); and Chaquaei Baskerville (2006).

In addition Bulkeley coaches Dorci Theodore T. Orzech and Charles Ferguson have also been nominated this year, as has Newman Tremblay for his artistic achievements. Other nominees are the undefeated golf teams of 1928, 1962 and 1963, the undefeated track team of 1934 and the 2000 boys basketball team, which won the State Class L Championship.



**Looking for something to do with that special someone this Valentine's Day? Here's a few ideas...**

### Downtown

**Infinity Hall. 8 pm.** [www.infinityhall.com](http://www.infinityhall.com). The Weight Band. Home grown talent Matt Zeiner (vocals and keyboards for Hartford Street Temperature) joins esteemed former members of The Band and The Levon Helm Band Jim Weider, Brian Mitchell, Albert Rogers and Michael Bram for an evening of Woodstock rock and roll. [www.theweightband.com](http://www.theweightband.com) Dinner before the show next door at El Pollo Guapo: quick, clean, and delightfully informal. [www.elpolloguapo.com](http://www.elpolloguapo.com)

### Midtown

**The Bushnell 8 pm.** [www.bushnell.org](http://www.bushnell.org). Hartford Symphony Orchestra plays Prokofiev's *Romeo and Juliet Suite*, and other works. Dinner before the performance, two minutes away at J Restaurant, American/Italian cuisine, classy décor. [www.jrestaurantbar.com](http://www.jrestaurantbar.com) Reservations encouraged (860) 527-7764

### Westside

**St Joseph University 8 pm.** [www.autorino.usj.edu](http://www.autorino.usj.edu). Daniel Salazar's *Romance De La Guitarra*. <http://www.daniel-salazar.com> The Maestro is joined by an ensemble of virtuoso international musicians for this Valentine's Day tradition. Enjoy dinner or lighter fare down the road at Elizabeth Park Pond House Cafe where you can savor the memory of the roses, and imagine their return in a few short months. <http://www.pond-housecafe.com> Reservations online or (860) 231-8823.

### Northside

**University of Hartford, 7:30 PM.** Annual Hartt Collage, a gift to the Community described as a "continuous musical event." (also offered on 2/15/20) Free but tickets required. <https://www.hartford.edu/calendar/box-office.aspx>. For dinner before the show, visit The Tavern at Keney Park for lobster or steak dinner, \$36 per person, plus tax and gratuity. Seatings start at 4 pm. <https://www.tavernkp.com> Reservations Required (860) 757-0658

By Paula Zeiner

## Vagina Monologues at Charter Oak this Friday & Saturday

Charter Oak Cultural Center, 21 Charter Oak Avenue, Hartford, will hold its annual presentation of *The Vagina Monologues* this Friday, February 7, at 8 pm and Saturday, February 8, at 8 pm.

Celebrated as the bible for a new generation of women, *The Vagina Monologues* has been performed in cities all across America and at hundreds of college campuses. It has inspired a dynamic grassroots movement—V-Day—to stop violence against

women. *The Vagina Monologues* introduces a wildly divergent gathering of female voices, including a six-year-old girl, a vagina workshop participant, a woman who witnesses the birth of her granddaughter, and a Bosnian survivor of rape.

Tickets are \$20; \$15 for seniors and \$5 for students. For more information and tickets, go to: <https://charteroakcenter.org/events>. **Note:** This performance contains adult content.

## Super Bowl as the Modern Circus Maximus

COMMENTARY BY BILL KATZ

Another Super Bowl ends. The hype of the sport as the modern version of ancient Greco-Roman god-titans guaranteed to astound the largest viewership and haul in revenue. The combatants battle for supremacy but will likely end up with the Parkinson's shakes later in life but no matter, free will and a lot of money keeps the wheels turning for everyone.

At halftime, J-Lo could, with a little imagination, be dancing with a boa constructor wrapped around her thighs. Perhaps include a horse mounting. An orangutan might be placed on the side stage

playing with himself while Shakira dances around him. Why not? Let's stop the pretense and go in hog. Bring on the animals. The Circus Maximus is in town.

After all, we have Trump installed as President as Emperor Caligula. What's the difference? What could be more vulgar than that?

For me, it's a commentary on our vulgar culture where shock reigns supreme. The sport of battering combatants who end up with Parkinson's mixed with symbolic sexual acts all designed to attract viewership to sell well, everything under the consumer sun.



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# Communication 101: How to Let City Council Know What You Think

BY DONNA SWARR

The new 9-member Hartford City Council has been in office for one month. Committee positions have been filled, meetings have been scheduled, and their work has begun. The role of Council members is to make policy for the governance of Hartford and its residents. The principal forum for local government policy-making is the Court of Common Council meeting. The City Council does not administer the day-to-day administration of city affairs. Policy-making often takes the form of passing ordinances or resolutions at City Council meetings. After policy decisions are made by the legislative body, the Mayor may accept or veto them. It is an administrative task to implement the policies through budget allocations and the hiring of staff.

City Council relies on ideas from many sources, including their staff, citizens' groups, Council advisory commissions, committees, task forces, and a variety of local organizations. There are several ways for you to provide your input on the agenda items, or call attention to an issue.

Meetings are held on the first and third Monday evenings at 7 p.m. in Council chambers on the second floor of City Hall. To receive the agendas in advance, email Sixto Lazu at [LAZUS001@hartford.gov](mailto:LAZUS001@hartford.gov) and ask to be put on the distribution list. The audience may not comment during Council's deliberations during meetings. A public comment session is held on the second Monday of each month at 6 p.m. prior to the 7 p.m. meeting. You must arrive before 6 p.m. in

order to sign up if you intend to address the Council. Each speaker is limited to three minutes. When your name is called, you will step up to the microphone, where you'll state your name, address, and if you are speaking for yourself or as the representative of a group. NOTE: You do not have to be a Hartford resident to give public comment, and you may speak on any city-related topic, even if it is not on that evening's agenda. If previous speakers have already made the comments you wish to make, feel free to simply to identify yourself and indicate your agreement with what has already been said. If you're unable to

attend a meeting or would rather not give testimony at the meeting, you can mail, fax, or email a letter which would then be made a part of the official record.

Council committee meetings are where most of their work takes place (see schedule). Committees meet to vote on agenda items that were referred to them, and are where the details of an item are researched and discussed. These committees serve as advisory boards to the remainder of the Council. Many times an outside expert or someone from a municipal department will provide information to committee members, and answer any questions they

might have. At the discretion of the chair, public participation may be allowed. You may ask to be on the agenda to share a concern with a committee, or you can submit your written comments on the subject to the committee chair prior to the meeting.

Public hearings offer another formal opportunity to convey your thoughts on the subject of that hearing to the City Council. The process is the same for speaking at the public comment session except they alternate the speakers by who are in favor and those that oppose the proposal. When you talk to the Council during a public hearing, Council members, staff,

and the audience will remain silent. After the last person has spoken, the hearing will be closed. The City Council will then discuss and make a decision on the issue.

## Committee Meetings

**Held in Council  
Chambers, Hartford  
City Hall, 550 Main St.**

**Health & Human Services**  
**Chairs:** T.J. Clarke & James Sanchez. Meets 1st Monday of the month, 5:30 pm\*

**Labor, Education, Workforce  
& Youth Development**  
Chair: Nick Lebron. Meets  
3rd Wednesday of each month,  
5:30 pm

## Operations, Management & Budget

Chairs: Maly Rosado & T.J. Clarke. Meets 3rd Monday of each month, 5:30 pm\*

## Planning, Economic Development & Housing

Chair: Shirley Surgeon. Meets  
1st Tuesday of each month,  
5:30 pm

**Public Works, Parks,  
Recreation & Environment**  
Chair: Marilyn Rossetti. Meets  
2nd Wednesday of each month,  
5:30 pm

## Quality of Life & Public Safety

Chairs: T.J. Clarke & James Sanchez. Meets 3rd Tuesday of each month, 5:30 pm

\*Meetings rescheduled to Tuesday in case of a Monday holiday.

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News Briefs

Continued from page 1

affiliate of the Colorado Rockies, will be holding National Anthem Auditions at Dunkin’ Donuts Park, 1214 Main St., Hartford) on Saturday, February 15th at 9:00 AM. Singers of all ages are welcome to audition for the opportunity to sing the National Anthem at a Yard Goat game. There are a limited number of tryout slots available and it is required that singers register in advance on the website, [www.yardgoatsbaseball.com](http://www.yardgoatsbaseball.com). The Yard Goats open the 2020 season on April 9th (7:10 PM) against the Red Sox affiliate, the

Portland Sea Dogs. Yard Goats season tickets are available by calling 860-246-GOAT (4628), or in person by visiting the Click It or Ticket Box Office at Dunkin’ Donuts Park.

KNOX Urban Greenhouse Party February 21

KNOX, Inc. will hold its annual “75° An Urban Greenhouse Party” on Friday, February 21 from 7 to 11 PM in the KNOX Greenhouse, 75 Laurel Street, Hartford. The event will include beer, wine and appetizers plus other surprises.



City Acquires New Wood Chipper

The City of Hartford’s Forestry Division recently acquired this new chipper, an 18” Bandit with an attached winch. The new machine will make cleaning up much more efficient and safer for the crew after they have taken down a tree – or have to take care of one that has fallen on its own, such as the giant below, which recently came down in Goodwin Park.



Time To Make A Sausage

Continued from page 2

The bottle bill will again come up for debate. Removing glass from single stream recycling offers numerous benefits. Broken glass damages the sorting equipment and contaminates mixed plastic and mixed paper recycle streams, reducing their value. The recovered glass is highly contaminated, and the recycling facility has to pay for its disposal, often as daily cover at landfills. Only glass recovered from deposit redemption is actually recycled. To be most effective, the bottle bill should include wine and liquor bottles, but the package store lobbyists will not support that!

For readers that have not yet glazed over and fallen out of their chairs, I will mention one more issue--community choice aggrega-

tion. CCA programs allow local governments to combine the retail electricity customers within their jurisdiction and procure electricity for them. The goal is that by negotiating bulk purchases, municipalities could offer lower rates than residents would be able to access on their own. Nine states, including Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and New York, have enacted legislation that allows municipalities to form CCAs and establish procedures for them to do so. We can learn from their programs.

There will be many more bills proposed and debated that have environmental impact. For those with stomachs strong enough to watch the session in process, see the sidebar for resources.

Let the sausage making begin!

Music will be provided by DJ Hakim Zarif. There will also be a silent auction with live plants. Tickets are \$45 (unless purchased before Feb. 1) or \$50 at the door. To purchase, go to: [www.knoxhartford.org](http://www.knoxhartford.org). Proceeds will benefit KNOX’s efforts to improve the quality of life for Hartford residents through community gardens, neighborhood clean-ups, tree plantings and other environmental initiatives.

CRT Job Fair February 25

The Community Renewal Team (CRT) will host a job fair on Tuesday, February 25, from 11 am - 6 pm at the CRT Main Office, 555 Windsor Street, Hartford. On-the-spot interviews will be available to qualified applicants. Please bring your resume. For more information, please call 860-560-5665.

HEZBA Luncheon February 28

The Hartford Enterprise Zone Business Association (HEZBA) will hold its annual Luncheon and Awards Presentation on Friday, February 28, from 12 - 2 pm at Uptown Vibz, 3155 Main Street, Hartford. To reserve your ticket, call 860-897-5171. This event is sponsored by HEZBA and the Inquiring News.

Be True To Your School

Continued from page 2

that, but it isn’t the major reason. The teachers? Usually not. Most are dedicated but also frustrated by the constraints put on their ability to teach and maintain order by the administration. And how about those in-school administrators? They take their marching orders from the upper echelon at Central Office, where dozens and dozens of employees earn \$100,000+, right up to the Superintendent of Schools, whose \$265,000 annual salary (before benefits, bonuses, and expenses) is the highest in Hartford. So who does the SOS and the rest of the anointed at 960 Main Street answer to? The Hartford Board of Education. Five of the nine board members—the voting majority—are appointed by the mayor, per the city charter. They

Register Now for Student-Police Dialogue Program

Registration is now open for Charter Oak Cultural Center’s nationally-recognized “Good Vibrations,” a free community dialogue and music program for Hartford Middle School students and the Hartford Police Department. Kids will share their concerns about their community, city life and policing with the officers and then jointly learn to express themselves creatively through rap, poetry, visual art and guitar. The program is directed by Khaiim the RaPoet a.k.a. Self Suffice, Orice Jenkins and Susan Mazer. Dinner is provided! The program will run for 12 weeks (February 20 through May 7) on Thursdays from 5pm to 7:30pm at Grace Lutheran Church , 46 Woodland Street, Hartford. Students in grades 5 through 8 (ages 11 to 15) are eligible but must pre-register. To sign up, go to: [www.facebook.com/events/625570194682435](https://www.facebook.com/events/625570194682435).

Auditions Open for Footlights Performing Arts School

Footlights Performing Arts and Education at the Downtown Hartford YMCA, 90 State House

Square, is now holding auditions for upcoming classes. Footlights offers instruction in dance, theater, singing, African drumming, martial arts, and visual arts and stage prop design along with tutoring, field trips, college credits and more. Auditions are open to children ages 10-17. To schedule your audition, please call 860-539-3984 or email to [footlightsinfo@ghymca.org](mailto:footlightsinfo@ghymca.org)

Saint Casimir Fair March 1 at Holy Trinity Church

Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church, 53 Capitol Avenue, Downtown Hartford, will host its annual Saint Casimir Fair on Sunday, March 1, from 10 am -2 pm in the church hall. There will be Lithuanian handicrafts and food for sale, as well as amber jewelry and other items. A Lithuanian-style lunch will also be available for sale as well as pastries. Admission is free, the public is welcome. Saint Casimir was a Lithuanian prince known for his devotion to God and his generosity to the sick and the poor. He died in 1484 at the young age of 25. He was buried in the Cathedral of Vilnius, Lithuania and officially made a saint in 1602. The fair is organized by the Lithuanian-American Girls and Boys Scouts. Proceeds will go to the scouts and the Holy Trinity Parish.

often act as apologists or enablers for HPS leadership, rather than holding them accountable for the money spent and the upper-level positions created that have had no effect on the endemic problems at city schools. They paint a rosy picture and tout “accomplishments”, when the truth is very, very different. And they extend the SOS’s contract like clockwork. Why?

We want our Hartford students to stay in school, become proficient in the basics, engage their curiosity to learn beyond that, and offer them incentives in the way of extra-curriculars. Bring back libraries and librarians, music programs, art programs, clubs for a wide variety of special interests, school newspapers and literary magazines, sports teams, bands, orchestras, talent shows, school plays. Let them choose—find one or more opportu-

nities to shine, to grow, to use their talents. Let the teachers teach. Enforce the school rules.

We don’t need “academies”; it was a bad idea. Most adolescents and younger students have no idea of what they want to do beyond middle and high school. We don’t need Asian Studies and Latino Studies schools, nor Global Communications, Sports & Medical Sciences, and other high schools. That level is for gaining proficiency in the academics, which should be the standard for every Hartford school. And the neighborhood schools deserve every amenity and opportunity currently available at the magnet schools. Until that happens, inequality will still be the rule, and the downward slide will continue. HBOE, please pay attention!

In My Opinion

Continued from page 2

and that Greens say there is “no difference between Democrats and Republicans.”

I did not say any of that in my article, or in 2016, or ever. In my view, Trump’s racism, corruption, and narcissistic sociopathy make him not just a man with bad policies, but a bad man as well. He was the greater evil compared to Clinton. He’s a greater evil than previous Republican presidents. He is an ever-present danger right now in office.

What is different about Trump from previous Republicans is his vicious public scapegoating, which has given permission for increased covert discrimination by institutional gatekeepers and has triggered open slurs, vandalism, and violence

by white nationalists against immigrants, Muslims, Jews, people of color, LGBTQ people, and women.

Recognizing the danger of Trump does not mean that electing any damned Democrat should trump all other considerations. The Democrats might beat Trump, but they won’t beat Trumpism. The Democrats should have crushed Trump in a landslide in 2016 because the hard right Republicans he reflects are a shrinking political minority in the US. But the Democrats have lost many state governments and federal offices to the Republicans.

In office, the Democrats join the Republicans to support the basic policies that the capitalist class cares about: neoliberal economic austerity at home and neoconserva-

tive imperialism abroad. Most working people don’t vote because neither capitalist party is credible to them on issues of peace and prosperity.

Instead of depending on the soft-right Democrats to fight the hard-right Republicans, the most effective way to fight the right is to build an independent left movement and party with its own program, actions. and candidates. That is the priority of my presidential campaign.

Howie talks about the Democrats’ opposition to ranked choice voting in the full column:

<https://howiehawkins.us/every-state-is-a-battleground-howie-hawkins-response-to-an-open-letter-to-the-green-party-about-2020-election-strategy/>

The non- partisan Office of Legislative Research has issued a report ([https://cga.ct.gov/olr/Documents/\\_year/MI/2020MI-20200109\\_Major%20Issues%20for%202020.pdf](https://cga.ct.gov/olr/Documents/_year/MI/2020MI-20200109_Major%20Issues%20for%202020.pdf)) on the major issues likely to come up during the session with links to background documents.

The CT General Assembly site (<https://www.cga.ct.gov/>) provides a calendar of scheduled events. You can also sign up for updates on specific bills you want to follow. ([https://www.cga.ct.gov/asp/cgabilltracking/pub/CGABillTrack\\_Register.aspx](https://www.cga.ct.gov/asp/cgabilltracking/pub/CGABillTrack_Register.aspx))

The CT League of Conservation Voters creates a Watch List for each session. Sign up for Action Alerts on their home page (<https://www.ctlc.org>).







# El Informativo Latino

## Estudiantes Boricuas se Inscriben en Escuela en Hartford

Hartford recibió a casi 50 estudiantes de Puerto Rico a raíz de una serie de terremotos que devastaron la isla el mes pasado.

Shelimar Ramírez, el Coordinador del Programa del Centro de Bienvenida, dice que es probable que vengan más estudiantes debido a las continuas réplicas. Encontrar vivienda es uno de los mayores desafíos para esos nuevos estudiantes y sus familias.

Ramírez dice que algunos se hospedan con familiares y otros en hoteles. Las escuelas de Hartford están recibiendo fondos para apoyar a los nuevos estudiantes.



## Asian New Year at LOB

On Wednesday, January 22, the Asian Pacific American Coalition (APAC) of Connecticut held its 13th Annual Lunar New Year Celebration at the Legislative Office Building on Capitol Avenue in Hartford. The main speaker at the event was Dr. Henry Lee, one of the world's foremost forensic scientists and founder of the Henry C. Lee Institute of Forensic Science, affiliated with the University of New Haven. Behind Lee is one of the dancing lions from the Chinese Language School of Greater Hartford, who provided the entertainment at the event, along with violinist David Dyson. APAC is a non-profit organization founded in 2008 that provides services and education for and about the Asian and Pacific American community. The event was co-sponsored by the State Commission on Women, Children, Seniors, Equity and Opportunity. (Hart photos)

## Talking With Thody

Continued from page 1

Thody for more than two hours before voting to send his nomination with approval to the council for a vote on February 24th. One council member was absent, six voted “yes”, one “no”, and one abstained. The questions went much deeper that night, covering an off-duty incident 10 years ago where a self-admitted “very drunk” Thody got into a bar fight while defending a friend. He was also questioned about both perceived and known issues of sexism and racism within HPD; the need for more minority promotions to higher-rank Deputy and Assistant Chief openings; more input needed from the Civilian Police Review Board; updates on surveillance technology; and more addressing of quality of life issues in Hartford, among other things.

Before the council vote on February 24th, there will be one more opportunity for the public to hear—and possibly question—Jason Thody. That will happen this Thursday, February 6th, 6 p.m., at Classical Magnet High School on Woodland Street, when the City Council Public Safety Committee meets to vote on the appointment. But it appears quite clear at this point that there won’t be a problem approving Bronin’s nomination by a majority council vote on the 24th.

## CRT Awarded \$1.2 million for Job-Training Program

The Community Renewal Team (CRT) was recently awarded \$1,202,143 by the U.S. Department of Labor to provide 67 at-risk teens and young adults (ages 18 – 24) from Hartford and East Hartford the opportunity to improve their education, occupational skills, employment credentials, and leadership capabilities over the next three years. Participants that complete the YouthBuild training program should experience a substantial increase in their standard of living and community engagement.

“The YouthBuild program offers a unique opportunity for young men and women to get hands-on training in construction and other highly desirable job skills that will fully prepare them to enter the modern workforce ready to succeed,” said CRT’s President and CEO Lena Rodriguez.

“We are thrilled to be able to offer this important job-training program to young people in our community,” said Fernando Betancourt, Chairman of CRT’s Board of Trustees. “There are so many obstacles to success these days, but we know that YouthBuild participants can complete this program armed with new skills that will lead to long-term career opportunities.”

## Hartford Job Corps Now Enrolling

The Hartford Job Corps Academy, located at 100 William Shorty Campbell Street, Hartford, is now enrolling new students. This federal training and education program is free to low income young people, ages 16-24. Career paths include manufacturing, insurance and financial services, and clinical medical assistance. Those accepted into the program may live on or off campus. Open Houses and Campus Tours are held every Monday and Thursday starting at 9 am. For more information, call 800-733-5627 or go to the website: [www.recruiting.job-corps.gov](http://www.recruiting.job-corps.gov).

CRT will offer a “Construction Plus” training program to the participants that is modeled after our multiple successful Capital City YouthBuild projects that we have run previously.

CRT guarantees that 32 students will be enrolled and complete construction skills training during the more than three year grant period of performance.

The Construction Plus training will also include Certified Nurse Assistant (CNA) training for 20 students through Capital Community College; and a selection of certified classes and on-the-job training for 15 students through Goodwin College.

CRT has selected Construction Plus fields of Security Guard Certification, Phlebotomy and Laboratory Services, Medical Assistant, and Machining and Manufacturing Technology.

“YouthBuild enhances the lives of its students and the community as a whole,” said U.S. Senator Chris Murphy. “The Community Renewal Team has been a positive influence on Connecticut families for years and grants like these go a long way to keep formal training and mentorship programs going. I commend their work, and will continue to fight in Washington for federal dollars to continue efforts to better the lives of the young people of Connecticut.”

“Giving young people skills to compete in high-demand industries like construction, nursing, manufacturing, and medical research is exactly the kind of workforce development we need to do more of,” said Hartford Mayor Luke Bronin. “I want to thank the U.S. Department of Labor and the Community Renewal Team for this new partnership.”

“As one of the people who helped to start the first YouthBuild program in Hartford, it gives me great pride to know that CRT is continuing the vital work of this job-training program for disadvantaged youth in Hartford and East Hartford,” said Martin Alvarenga, Business Agent & Organizer with the Carpenters Local 326 in Connecticut, and new member of CRT’s Board of Trustees. “The young men and women who go through this training will come out with serious skills that will take them far in life.”

Individuals that are interested in joining the YouthBuild program in Hartford should contact CRT right away at 860-560-5308, or via email: [youthbuild@crtct.org](mailto:youthbuild@crtct.org).

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